

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1 and 8 as set forth below is the entire set of pending claims. Underlines indicate insertions; ~~strikeouts~~ or double brackets [[]] indicate deletions.

1 1. (Currently amended) A consumable order-assistance system
 2 for computer peripheral devices, comprising:
 3 a personal computer having a messaging system;
 4 at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging system
 5 communicating with the messaging system of the personal computer;
 6 a communication link, signal coupling the personal computer with a
 7 seller of a consumable for the computer peripheral device;
 8 a server having a centralized management database including part
 9 numbers for consumables for the at least one computer peripheral device and
 10 alternative part numbers for alternative consumables for the at least on
 11 computer peripheral device; and
 12 a user interaction site configured to receive a notification from the
 13 computer peripheral device via the messaging system of the personal computer
 14 of a need to order a consumable and further configured to enable a user to
 15 retrieve an alternative part number for an alternative consumable for one of the
 16 at least one peripheral device;
 17 wherein the user interaction site is provided within one of: a single-
 18 connection environment as an end user interface; an unmanaged network
 19 environment as a workgroup administrator interface; and a server-based
 20 centralized network environment as a centralized system administrator interface.

1 2. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
 2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are
 3 connected with a bus, and wherein the user interaction site comprises a printer
 4 driver of the personal computer provided within a single-connection
 5 environment.

1 3. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are
3 provided within an unmanaged network environment, the user interaction site
4 comprises an embedded web server of the computer peripheral device, and the
5 embedded web server generates and forwards a message to a user at the
6 personal computer to prompt ordering of a consumable.

1 4. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are
3 provided within a network environment having a central server, the user
4 interaction site comprises a network administrator personal computer
5 communicating with the server, and a network management application provided
6 on the server generates and forwards a message to a network administrator.

1 5. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a centralized administrator
3 interface comprising a centralized purchaser, and wherein a centralized order-
4 assistance tool of a network server delivers a notification to the centralized
5 purchaser of a need to order a consumable.

1 6. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a user interface of the personal
3 computer.

1 7. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a user interface for facilitating user
3 access to the computer peripheral device to receive notification of a need to
4 order a consumable for the computer peripheral device.

1 8. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented self-adjusting
2 consumable order-assistance system which implements a program in which
3 consumable components of computer peripheral devices are replenished, the
4 system comprising:

5 a personal computer having a messaging system;

6 at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging system
7 communicating with the messaging system of the personal computer;

8 a communication link, signal coupling the personal computer with a
9 reseller of a consumable;

10 a server having a centralized management database including part
11 numbers for consumables for the at least one computer peripheral device and
12 alternative part numbers for alternative consumables for the at least on
13 computer peripheral device; and

14 a user interface comprising an end user interaction interface, a
15 workgroup administrator interface, or a centralized system administrator
16 interface, the end user interaction interface including the personal computer
17 configurable for interaction by a user that is exchanging information with a
18 computer peripheral device associated with the personal computer, the
19 workgroup administrator interface operative to manage one computer peripheral
20 device at a time, [[and]] the centralized system administrator interface
21 communicating with a server of a centralized network environment and further
22 configured to enable a user to retrieve an alternative part number from the
23 database for an alternative consumable for one of the at least one peripheral
24 device.

1 9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the end user
2 interaction system comprises a printer driver of the personal computer.

1 10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the
2 workgroup administrator interface cooperates with an embedded web server of
3 the computer peripheral device.

1 11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the
2 centralized system administrator interface cooperates with a network
3 management application usable by a network administrator.

1 12. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the end user
2 interaction system is provided within a single-connection environment
3 comprising the personal computer communicating with the computer peripheral
4 device via a bus, and wherein a single user has dedicated access to the personal
5 computer.

1 13. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the workgroup
2 administrative interface comprises an embedded web server within the computer
3 peripheral device, and wherein the embedded web server comprises an interface
4 for the order-assistance system.

1 14. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the centralized
2 system administrator interface comprises a centralized order-assistance tool, and
3 wherein the centralized order-assistance tool is provided within a centralized
4 network environment having a server.

1 15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the
2 computer peripheral device comprises an embedded web server, and wherein the
3 personal computer and the computer peripheral device are provided within an
4 unmanaged network environment, and the embedded web server initiates
5 ordering of a consumable in response to a detected need to replenish the
6 consumable.

1 16. (Withdrawn) A method of providing order assistance,
2 comprising:
3 providing a computer peripheral device, a personal computer having
4 a communication link with a reseller of a consumable, a messaging system

5 extending between the computer peripheral device and the personal computer,
6 and a user interaction site;

7 determining an environment in which the computer peripheral
8 device and the personal computer are provided by detecting the presence of a
9 parallel cable or the presence of a network environment;

10 for the case where the presence of a network environment is
11 detected and after determining an environment, further broadcasting a discovery
12 protocol to detect the presence of a centralized order-assistance solution; and
13 based on the determined environment and after further
14 broadcasting a discovery protocol, providing the user interaction site in the form
15 of: a user interface when the network environment comprises a single-
16 connection environment; an embedded web server when the network
17 environment comprises an unmanaged network environment; and a centralized
18 system administrator interface when the network environment comprises a
19 server-based, centralized network environment.

1 17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein, when the
2 presence of a parallel cable is detected, the network environment is determined
3 to be a single-connection environment, the computer peripheral device interacts
4 at an end user level.

1 18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the network
2 environment comprises a single-connection environment, the user interface site
3 comprises an interface to a consumable order assistance computer program
4 resident on the personal computer, and the program provides an order location
5 to a user for purchasing a consumable.

1 19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the computer
2 peripheral device comprises an embedded web server, the network environment
3 comprises an unmanaged network environment, and the embedded web server
4 initiates ordering of a consumable in response to a detected need to replenish
5 the consumable.

1 20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the personal
2 computer comprises a maintainer computer, the network environment comprises
3 a managed, centralized network environment having a server, and the server
4 sends a notification to the maintainer computer of a need to order a consumable.